

# MARION

## DEADMAN'S DOZEN

OCTOBER 2018

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2014 Wagner-Stempel Weissburgunder Trocken Rheinhesen Ger

As one of the Rheinhesen's premier producers of Riesling, it's reasonable to expect that Wagner-Stempel would also have a deft hand with Weissburgunder [German for Pinot Blanc]. Racy grapefruit acidity is complemented by notes of white peach and green apricot. This is a dry and refreshing interpretation of Pinot Gris' blonde sister.

2013 Vasco's Mistress Loureiro Vinho Verde Por

Difficult to say, easy to drink. Loureiro is an ancient grape variety that grows on the banks of the Minho River in Portugal. In the hands of young winemakers Jordy Kay and Travis Van it shows varietal characters of bay laurel joined by honeysuckle, soft herbs and brisk citrus - a saline wine perfect for oysters and young vegetables.

2017 La Morella 'Vino Bianco' Cortese Piedmont Ita

Cortese is best known as the variety used in Gavi - a fresh white wine made in the southern part of Piedmont, not far from the Ligurian Sea. This example is made without sulphur, from organic grapes and has an invigorating and intriguing Jura-like tang of sea-spray and lemony apple characters.

2016 Gembrook Hill Sauvignon Blanc Yarra Valley Vic

The Yarra might be better known for Chardonnay, but this Sauvignon Blanc is always a winner. The Marks family's low yielding, dry farmed vines produce a wine closer in vision to Pouilly-Fumé than Marlborough. 2016's ripe golden fruit abounds, but the line of acidity and creamy texture make the wine speak more of Gembrook Hill than simply of Sauvignon Blanc.

2016 Domaine Besson Petit Chablis Chablis Fra

Mother Nature has not been kind to the vigneron of northerly Burgundy of late, with Chablis vineyards decimated by hail and frost over several consecutive vintages. Miserly yields mean that the Besson family have produced a Petit Chablis that punches well above its appellation weight, with green apple freshness and the region's hallmark notes of oyster shell and chalk.

2018 Arfion 'Aromata' Pinot Gris/Gewürztraminer Yarra Valley Vic

Dave Mackintosh makes some of our favourite Yarra Valley wines, and we diligently wait for the release of Aromata every year. Pink skinned Pinot Gris [for structure and red apple fruit] and a few buckets of Gewürztraminer [for florals and spice] are co-fermented in contact with the skins, giving a gentle blush to the wine and an attractive chalky texture. Drink in the sunshine.

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2017 Travis Tausend 'Yumi' Pinot Noir Adelaide Hills SA

Travis Tausend's goal to tell the story of the land through the medium of wine has lead him down the 'natural' road. The 'Yumi' Pinot Noir is hand made, from picking and sorting, to crushing on a hand driven basket press. The result is a light wine that is full of heart and intrigue.

2018 Little Reddie 'NEW!' Nebbiolo/Refosco Heathcote Vic

Pat Underwood's winemaking goes from strength to strength and with this re-release of 'NEW!' he has nailed the brief of the modern, crunchy and bright red wine. The 2017 version is a blend of Nebbiolo rosé, Refosco and late-picked Nebbiolo, and speaks of cherries, black pepper and rose petals.

2017 Architects of Wine Lagrein Langhorne Creek SA

Langhorne Creek surely flies under the radar, but gives us stellar examples of alternative varieties like this Lagrein. The afternoon breezes this region is famous for help this Northern Italian variety keep its cool - the wine is appropriately dark and brooding yet juicy and fresh too.

2013 Toolangi 'Paul's Lane' Shiraz Yarra Valley Vic

There's an argument that could be made that the Yarra's number one red variety in the future could be Shiraz, and it's in no small part to producers like Toolangi. From a warm vintage, this wine is medium to full in weight, with aromatic notes of dark olive and earth, and sophisticated tannins.

2016 A. Rodda 'Cuvée du Chez' Cabernets Beechworth Vic

Adrian Rodda is best known for his work with Chardonnay but he picked up some neat tricks with Cabernet too, during his time at Oakridge in the Yarra Valley. This is a blend of all five Bordeaux varieties and has the typical elegance of a Rodda wine married with the extra fruit weight and concentration of the 2016 vintage. Powerful and tailor-made for a char-grilled steak at your first spring BBQ.

Wildflower Brewing 'Amber' Australian Wild Ale NSW

This exciting new brewery based out of Sydney has set a new Australian benchmark for complex and layered ale made in a traditional Belgian farmhouse style. The beer itself is full of malty depth pinned down with citrusy acidity. The recipe is thoughtful and well executed: caramelised grains; light on the hops; foraged wild yeast; natural souring bacteria; aged in French oak barrels.